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PASTO FACE ACTION FOR. ORGANISING UNLAWFUL GATHERING

Mahathir - PAS

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ALOR SETAR, Dec 11 (Bernama) -- **The government will take action against. PAS for** having organised the +Jihadul Akbar+ gathering without a police permit, in Kampung Memali, Baling, from Nov 26 to 28, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

+If it (PAX) had violated the 'law, I do not. see any reason why the government should not. take action,+ he told reporters at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport here.

The Prime Minister and his wife, Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hamzah, had arrived here to attend a dinner organised by undergraduates of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) at the Dewan Datuk Syed Omar here tonight.

Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff was at the airport to greet them.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the police had handed a report to him, in his capacity as the Home Minister, on the unlawful gathering organised by PAS. -- more

▼11/12/20-59MST

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Mahathir - PAS 2 Alor Setar

PAS had organised the gathering to mark the death of 14 of its members in what has come to be called the Memali incident six years ago. The party assumed that they had died as martyrs.

Eighteen people, four of them policemen, were killed in the incident when PAS members led by one Haji Ibrahlim Mahmud alias Ibrahlim Libya refused to surrender and clashed with police.

Asked **what form** the action against PAS would be, the Prime Minister said that would be left to the police.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said it was regretful that PAS which professed to champion Islam was resorting to behaviour that strayed far from **what the religion** required of its followers.

He also said it was regretful that the party organised the gathering in memory of its members whom it, considered to have died as martyrs but not, for the four policemen **who were all** so killed then. -- more

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Mahathir - PAS 3 Alor Setar

He said the police had sacrificed a lot. They had defended the nation from the Communist threat, and if not, for them the country would have been overrun by the Communists and there would have been no 'democracy and even PAS would not be in existence.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said if the police were actually cruel and resorted to violence then how come the Memali incident was not repeated elsewhere in the country.

He said the police cordoned off the PAS members in Memali to defend themselves after they were shot at, by the group which resulted in the deaths of four policemen.

He said the police had earlier persuaded the group to have talks but its members attacked instead. -- more

▼11/12/21-11MST

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Mahathir - PAS 4 (last) Alor Setar

The Prime Minister said the police were not trained to be violent, what more to kill. In fact, when facing riots they were directed to use only tear gas and batons, he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said it was also regretful that PAS preferred to consider as fate when disaster struck, such as the fire at the hostel of the Taufiqiah Khairiah Al-Halimiah school sponsored by the party in Padang Lumat near here in September 1989 where 27 students were killed.

He said there would not have been casualties if PAS had not cramped up to 600 students in the hostel. -- Bernama

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